

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation
April 2, 2009

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA BEACH AND MARINE DEBRIS PREVENTION AND REMOVAL PROGRAM FUNDING AUGMENTATION

File No. 07-077-02
Project Manager: Laura Engeman

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to augment the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization to disburse an additional \$210,000 of federal grant funds to Save Our Shores for the Central California Beach and Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program in Santa Cruz County.

LOCATION: Santa Cruz County, Statewide

PROGRAM CATEGORY: Integrated Coastal & Marine Resources Protection

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: [Conservancy Authorization of September 20, 2007](#)

Exhibit 2: [Project Letters](#)

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31104 and 31220 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby augments its September 20, 2007 authorization to disburse an additional two hundred then thousand dollars (\$210,000) of federal Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds from the U.S. Minerals Management Service through the California Resources Agency to Save Our Shores for the Central California Beach and Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program, more particularly described in Exhibit 1 to the accompanying staff recommendation. This authorization remains subject to the conditions of the September 20, 2007 authorization.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that the proposed authorization remains consistent with the findings made in its September 20, 2007 authorization.”

PROJECT SUMMARY:

At its September 20, 2007 meeting, the Conservancy authorized \$100,000 to Save Our Shores (SOS) to develop a locally-based pilot program and demonstrate techniques for engaging citizens, businesses, and government in the prevention and reduction of marine debris. (See Exhibit 1). The program is identifying debris sources, pathways, and hotspots during routine watershed and beach clean-ups, and using the data collected to develop effective marine debris prevention and reduction strategies to be implemented at a local level. The Conservancy applied for an additional two years of funding for the SOS marine debris program from the CIAP 2008 program. The project has been included in California's CIAP, expected to be awarded in April 2009.

Site Description: The proposed project site description remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization. (See Exhibit 1).

Project History: The proposed project history section remains consistent with the September 20, 2007 Conservancy authorization. (See Exhibit 1).

In addition, the CIAP program issued a call for projects in 2007 that furthered the goals and objectives of the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC). Earlier that year, the OPC adopted a marine debris resolution calling for the continuation and expansion of watershed clean-ups, and the promotion of education and outreach on plastic debris and litter prevention. CIAP funding for the SOS Central California Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Program is a joint effort by the Conservancy and the OPC to develop techniques for implementing strategies in local communities for preventing debris from entering and impacting the marine and coastal environment.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Conservancy funding (2007-2008)	\$100,000
NOAA National Marine Debris Program	\$70,000
CIAP Grant via California Resources Agency	<u>\$ 210,000</u>
Total Project Cost	\$ 380,000

The funding for the proposed project consists of Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) funds. The U.S. Minerals Management Service (MMS) provided the CIAP funds to the Resources Agency, which in turn agreed to grant the funds to the Conservancy. The CIAP was established under Section 384 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (the Act) and authorizes the Secretary of the Interior, as delegated to the MMS, to distribute \$250 million annually to the 6 outer continental shelf oil and gas producing states in federal fiscal years 2007 through 2010. The Act allows a state agency to use CIAP funds for projects that serve to conserve, protect, or restore coastal areas, including wetlands. These CIAP funds will be disbursed to SOS to implement the project. The project has been included in California's CIAP, expected to be awarded in April 2009.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

The proposed authorization remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization. (See Exhibit 1).

Additionally, the proposed augmentation of funds to SOS is consistent with Public Resources Code Section 31104, which provides that the Conservancy may apply for and accept federal grants.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2007
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization. (See Exhibit 1).

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

The proposed project remains consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines section of the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization. (See Exhibit 1). In addition, the proposed authorization is consistent with the most recent guidelines, updated September 20, 2007, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
2. **Need:** The Conservancy authorization is necessary for disbursement of the CIAP funds and for completion of the project.

Additional Criteria

3. **Urgency:** Conservancy and NOAA funds were used by SOS to develop the program during 2007-2008. CIAP grant funds are needed to complete the program through 2009-2010.
4. **Resolution of more than one issue:** This project will reduce debris from entering and impacting coastal watersheds and the marine environment. In addition, much of the debris is found or deposited on or around coastal access points and trails. This project will help improve and enhance these coastal areas for enhanced enjoyment by coastal users.
5. **Leverage:** See the "Project Financing" section above.
6. **Conflict resolution:** This project will provide opportunities for collaboration among various coastal businesses, regulatory agencies, and resource protection groups. Issues related to limited funding at local levels for trash collection and litter enforcement will be addressed through efforts to enlist volunteers, the public and coastal businesses in taking responsibility for proper waste disposal.

7. **Readiness:** The project has been included in California's State Coastal Impact Assistance Plan, and the CIAP funds for the project are expected to be awarded in April 2009. SOS anticipates using these funds immediately to continue the program's development.
8. **Realization of prior Conservancy goals:** The Conservancy has supported a number of coastal access and improvement projects in Santa Cruz County, as well as watershed enhancement and fish passage projects through the Integrated Watershed Resources Planning (IWRP) project. Most recently, the Conservancy provided \$250,000 to the Santa Cruz Port Commission on November 8, 2007, to improve coastal pathways along the Santa Cruz harbor west jetty and designate these pathways as a spur of the California Coastal Trail. SOS efforts to address debris impacting these local watersheds and coastal areas will provide enhanced stewardship for past and future Conservancy investments in Santa Cruz County.

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL COASTAL PROGRAM POLICIES:

The proposed augmentation remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization. (See Exhibit 1).

CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN, INTEGRATED REGIONAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN, AND REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN:

The proposed augmentation of funding remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization. (See Exhibit 1).

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed augmentation of funding remains consistent with the Conservancy's September 20, 2007 authorization with respect to CEQA. (See Exhibit 1).